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A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF LOBSTER CULTURE

SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC REPORT 64

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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior
J. A. Krug, Secretary

Fish and Wildlife Service
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Explanatory Note

The series, Special Scientific Reports, embodies results of investigations, usually of restricted scope, intended to aid or direct management or utilization practices and as guides for administrative or legislative action. It is issued in limited quantities for the official use of Federal, State or cooperating agencies and in processed form for economy and to avoid delay in publication.

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A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF LOBSTER CULTURE

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The artificial rearing of commercially important crustacea from the hatching of the egg to the attainment of a post larval stage has in general not been as successful as most attempts in fish culture. Of the various species of decapod crustacea which are of economic value, only the lobster (Homarus vulgaris and H. americanus) has thus far proven amenable in some degree to artificial culture. The difficulties involved in the culture of the North American common edible crabs (Cancer borealis, C. irroratus, C. magister and Callinectes sapidus), spiny lobsters (Panulirus interruptus and P. argus) and shrimp (Peneus species, Pandalus species and Crago species) have been discouraging.

Several factors have stimulated scientists and fish culturists to continue their efforts to perfect the methods involved in lobster hatching and rearing. First, the lobster supports valuable fisheries in the regions where it is most abundant and whenever the population of lobsters has declined, the practice of artificial culture has been considered as a means of increasing the supply of these crustaceans. Second, experimental lobster rearing has often resulted in survivals to the post larval stage of over 50 per cent of the newly hatched larvae and such relative success has encouraged further efforts to increase the survival.

In view of the interest still shown in the artificial propagation of the lobster, I have here assembled references pertaining to this activity and also the early life history of the genus. In Europe, the countries of France, Great Britain, Holland and Norway have contributed to our knowledge of the culture of Homarus vulgaris. Canada, Newfoundland and the United States have propagated H. americanus. In the United States, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island have operated hatcheries or rearing stations either independently or in cooperation with the Federal Government. Reports on the activities of such state organizations are listed in the bibliography under the states involved. Reports of the Federal Government's lobster cultural work, whether on a cooperative basis or not, are listed under United States.

I have marked with an asterisk those references which I consider as the more important sources of information of this subject. Translations of all references have been made and will be available in the future to those interested.

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